

The revelation that human rights abuses continue to worsen in China, while our policy remains status quo, I believe, gives our own tacit consent to the terrible atrocities that are occurring in that great country.

To remain silent when evil is perpetrated and injustice is being inflicted, I think, is to become a participant in that evil. So I urge my colleagues to obtain a copy of this year's report issued this week, read it, study it, and decide what action we should take as a nation against this regime that continues to disregard basic human rights.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. SPECTER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. STEVENS). The Senator from Pennsylvania.

#### INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to comment briefly on the issue of independent counsel. Yesterday, I spoke about my view that independent counsel ought to be appointed and the fact that there appeared to be no chance of Attorney General Reno appointing an independent counsel, and then exploring the alternatives of litigation and the alternative of an amendment to the independent counsel statute. I stated at that time that I intended to pursue legislation to modify the independent counsel statute and had hoped to put it on the appropriations bill on Commerce, State, Justice, and the Judiciary, but would not do so if it would tie up the bill.

After consultation with the distinguished majority leader and others, it was apparent to me that such an amendment would tie up the bill and most probably provoke a filibuster on the other side, and that, in fact, a unanimous-consent agreement had been proposed which was conditional on tabling any amendment which I might offer.

In addition to the amendment on independent counsel, I was considering, along with my distinguished colleague, Senator HATCH, offering a sense-of-the-Senate resolution calling for the Attorney General to appoint independent counsel. But even a sense-of-the-Senate resolution would have provoked a likely filibuster to tie up the bill. So I did not proceed to do that, but instead filed at the desk yesterday legislation for independent counsel, after consultation with the majority leader, who said that if an opportunity presented itself that that matter might be called up as early as next week. That would not be certain because there are considerations as to what will happen with the reconciliation bill and the tax bill.

In the alternative, after discussions with Senator HATCH, the alternative has been considered to have a sense-of-the-Senate resolution perhaps acted on next week, if there is time. It is the last week before the recess. But that is problematical.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the sense-of-the-Senate resolution be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### SEC. . SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT COUNSEL.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) press reports appearing in the early Spring of 1997 reported that the FBI and the Justice Department withheld national security information the Clinton administration and President Clinton regarding information pertaining to the possible involvement by the Chinese government in seeking to influence both the administration and some members of Congress in the 1996 elections;

(2) President Clinton subsequently stated, in reference to the failure by the FBI and the Justice Department to brief him on such information regarding China: "There are significant national security issues at stake here," and further stated that "I believe I should have known";

(3) there has been an acknowledgment by former White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta in March 1997 that there was indeed coordination between the White House and the DNC regarding the expenditure of soft money for advertising;

(4) the Attorney General in her appearance before the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 30, 1997 acknowledged a presumed coordination between President Clinton and the DNC regarding campaign advertisements;

(5) Richard Morris in his recent book, "Behind the Oval Office," describes his firsthand knowledge that "the president became the day-to-day operational director of our [DNC] TV ad campaign. He worked over every script, watched each ad, ordered changes in every visual presentation and decided which ads would run when and where;"

(6) there have been conflicting and contradictory statements by the Vice President regarding the timing and extent of his knowledge of the nature of a fundraising event at the Hsi Lai Buddhist Temple near Los Angeles on April 29, 1996;

(7) the independent counsel statute requires the Attorney General to consider the specificity of information provided and the credibility of the source of information pertaining to potential violations of criminal law by covered persons, including the President and the Vice President;

(8) the independent counsel statute further requires the Attorney General to petition the court for appointment of an independent counsel where the Attorney General finds that there is a reasonable likelihood that a violation of criminal law may have occurred involving a covered person;

(9) the Attorney General has been presented with specific and credible evidence pertaining to potential violations of criminal law by covered persons and there is a reasonable likelihood that a violation of criminal law may have occurred involving a covered person; and

(10) the Attorney General has abused her discretion by failing to petition the court for appointment of an independent counsel.

(b) It is the Sense of the Senate that the Attorney General should petition the court immediately for appointment of an independent counsel to investigate the reasonable likelihood that a violation of criminal law may have occurred involving a covered person in the 1996 presidential federal election campaign.

Mr. SPECTER. As if in morning business, Mr. President, I submit the sense-

of-the-Senate resolution for introduction to be considered at a later time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SPECTER. I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

In the absence of any other Senator on the floor, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWNBACK). Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. MURKOWSKI pertaining to the introduction of S. 1069 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

#### NATIONAL ENERGY SECURITY

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to call attention to an extraordinary experience that occurred last weekend, involving several Members of this body who joined my wife and me in visiting our great State of Alaska: Senator HELMS and Mrs. Helms, the Senator from North Carolina; Senator JEFFORDS from Vermont, Senator INHOFE of Oklahoma, and Senator SMITH from Oregon. We left last Friday after the close of business Thursday night. We covered approximately 7,400 miles in about 64 hours. We visited eight cities and communities. I think we were in the airplane some 23 hours, spent 6 hours on a bus, and at least 10 hours visiting with people on the ground in Alaska. But for that relatively brief time, I think a great deal was learned.

The purpose of the trip, relative to aspects of the national energy security of the country, was to observe the oil development on the North Slope of Alaska at Prudhoe Bay, and to follow the pipeline 800 miles down to the terminus at Valdez.

We flew on Friday direct from Washington, DC, via Edmonton, Canada to Cordova, AK, in Prince William Sound, where we were met by Mayor Johnson, who gave us an overview of the impact of the Federal Government relations and the aftereffects of the *Exxon Valdez* oilspill at Bligh Reef.

We then got into smaller aircraft and flew around Prince William Sound. We viewed Colombia Glacier and at the area where the *Exxon Valdez* went aground—we observed the beaches closely. I am pleased to tell my colleagues that there was absolutely no sign of any residue from that terrible accident.

We then landed in Valdez, were met by a group of people, and boarded a bus to go around the harbor to the pipeline terminal, which is the largest oil terminal in the United States. A full 25